

White Pine Blister Rust Worse Than Forest Fire, Declaration Of Writer

Forest tree diseases are worse than forest fires, for once firmly established eradication is impossible. If the story of chestnut blight, white pine blister and forest fires could be told at every fireside so that their effects could be comprehended, one weighty lesson on forest conservation would be learned.

The chestnut blight disease was introduced doubtless on trees, from Asia, probably by some lover of the curious and different. It was first found in North America, in New York in 1904. To day it has all but destroyed the vast chestnut forests of the east.

White pine blister rust is running the chestnut a close second. It was introduced into the eastern United States from Europe about 1900, and into Vancouver, B. C. about 1910. The damage done since that time is enormous. The fight against it has been at times discouraging. When its real seriousness was only partly comprehended the government under too? a program of eradication, and for a short time it seemed the battle would be won, until a great wave of disease broke on the eastern white pine forests in several localities. The battle to eradicate was lost. Then came a well laid plan for control. It is believed that the disease can be controlled at a reasonable practical cost. The value of the white pines will warrant a reasonable expenditure for their protection.

The program for the control of the white pine blister rust, as outlined by the United States department of agriculture in cooperation with state officials and private owners, is a broad comprehensive plan extending over several years. It is based on several definite findings made by studies in the east, in Europe and in the west. To make sure the right course was being pursued specialists were sent to Europe, after they had thoroughly studied the disease in the eastern states, to study the disease on its own home grounds. Others were sent to British Columbia to study it under Pacific Greater West conditions.

These are some of the results of those investigations. The disease is transmitted from pine to currants and gooseberries. It passes from currants and gooseberries to currants and gooseberries and from the currants and gooseberries back to the pines. It does not pass from pine to pine. The cultivated, or European black currant (not the yellow flowering currant) takes the disease much more readily than the other currants. The black currant is more severely attacked and produces disease spores in much greater abundance than do other currants. The disease may jump as far as 150 miles from diseased pines to black currants in a single wind storm. It passes comparatively short distances from currants and gooseberries back to the pines. Very dry seasons are unfavorable to the spread of the rust while wet seasons with fog, rain, or dew are favorable. The disease can be carried from place to place by shipping diseased plants into uninfested territory. All five-needled pines and the white pines are susceptible to the blister rust.

These points indicate the weak links in the contagion chain and suggest the control program. The first weak link in its spread is that the disease does not pass from pine to pine. Obviously if all the currant and gooseberries could be removed the disease could pass no farther. While the disease carries great distances from the pines to the currants and gooseberries, it carries only a short distance from the currants and gooseberries back to pines. So the problem narrows itself down somewhat. To the specific, the currants and gooseberries are taken from the white pine stands and the neighboring lands to a distance of 900 feet. In such cases the disease does not reach the pines.

The cultivated black currant is a serious spreader of the disease. It is considered by the United States department of agriculture to be so serious that the planting of this species is discouraged in any part of the United States and many states have outlawed it. Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California, have taken definite steps in cooperation with the United States department of agriculture to eradicate all black currant bushes. As a result the federal blister rust quarantine laws have been established. Some states prohibit nursery stock being brought from foreign countries except under strict regulation. Another state prescribes that currants, gooseberries or white pine must not be shipped from the east into the west. The quarantine line is the west line of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana. Currants, gooseberries and white pines may not be shipped from Washington state to any other state in the union.

British Columbia has localities where the white pines look as

though they had been struck by a recent fire. In the coast and Okanogan regions of Washington the white pine blister rust has been found chiefly on black currants, native and cultivated. It is now developing on the pines in these regions.

Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington and California, with their valuable stands of pine, must be on the alert to prevent the ravages of the white pine blister rust.

O. E. Mells, a pathologist of Spokane, Wash., and L. N. Hoading, of Oregon Agricultural College, assistant pathologist in charge of the white pine blister rust campaign, are gathering information from the Oregon state forestry department relative to the location of the white pine stands in Oregon.

A number of men will be placed in the field in Polk county, Ore., this summer to make a survey of the white pine stands and to determine the amount of black currant growing in that section. Mells will have charge of a crew of about 100 men and will undertake experimental work during this summer in the Woodruff Meadows district, in Jackson county, west of Crater Lake National park.

Other work will be to secure an accurate topographical map of the territory to be treated—V. Haskin, in "The Timberman."

John D. Has Factory For Box Making

Little Chance For Box Sales To Oil Firms

At the Richmond, Cal., refinery of the Standard Oil Co., is to be found one of the most complete box factories on the Pacific Coast, capable of cutting 200,000 feet of shoo-k per day, and whose output seldom drops below 100,000 feet per day. The factory is located within the confines of the main refinery and occupies, with its yard, a site of approximately 15 acres, with a storage capacity of about 20 million feet of box lumber.

Spruce in grades of No. 1 and 2 box of 5-4 thickness, seven to 15 inches wide, is the only material used at the Richmond plant. This is brought by steam schooner direct to the Standard Oil docks and reloaded on cars which are switched to the refinery yard. Upon arrival the lumber is stored according to widths and grade on a regulation sorting table and made into unit packages for air seasoning in the yard. An extensive system of narrow gauge industrial tracks extends throughout the plant. A seven-ton Plymouth gasoline locomotive does the switching and a lighter Milwaukee gasoline locomotive spots the loads for the box factory. Three Brownholt locomotives are employed for piling and unpling the unit packages, which are stored either six or seven courses high. At present the stock in the yard slightly exceeds 12 million feet.

At the front end of the main factory are located two matchers. Behind these is a depressed track upon which a transfer car is operated for spotting the loads to the cutoff saws, which number 14 in all. Back of the cutoffs are three vertical twin Mershon band resaws. Other equipment in the main factory includes three rip-saws, three cutoff saws, sash machine, and an Eby tying machine. A well equipped filling room is located above the main factory. Adjoining the factory and separated by a fire door is the shoo-k warehouse where approximately 200,000 feet of finished material is stored. Above the warehouse is the large nailing department, equipped with 15 Dwig nailing machines and five Connell & Dangler box printers. From the nailing room the boxes are conveyed by a double transfer system direct to the filling room where the cans are placed in the packages and the tops nailed on. A sixth box printer is located in the filling room for printing the tops.

No Picture

This Week

We had intended running several pictures, similar to the one that adorned our front page last week, but we are refraining in accordance with the expressed wish of practically every logging boss in the district. They say many of the men who looked at the picture last week promptly quit and started for town, and as we don't want to demoralize the Klamath county logging industry, we will therefore lay off.

More News Wanted

If you have a mill some place that isn't receiving as much mention as it should, let us know.

Some of Klamath county's mills are very careless in picking out the roads that lead to them, and as a result it's impossible to reach them more than once a month.

Hence, send it in

The Lumberlogue